

Rockingham County Area Selectmen's Meeting  
Minutes June 05, 2013

Convened: 7:00 pm

Present at the meeting were NH State Senator Russell Prescott, NH State Representative Curtis Grace, Newton Selectman Charles Melvin Sr., Sandown Selectmen Paula Gulla and Terry Treanor, Epping Town Administrator Greg Dodge, Lee Selectman Dave Cedarholm, Kingston Selectmen Mark Heitz and George Korn, Candia Selectman Richard Snow, and Brentwood Selectmen David Menter, Jeffrey Bryan, Jane Byrne, and Ken Christiansen.

Menter called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed those in attendance.

The first item on the agenda was tax deeds. Heitz said in Kingston past practice was to take by tax deed small inconsequential parcels of land. As of late, they have had the need to deed properties with single family dwellings and was curious what other towns in the area are experiencing. Bryan said we have been fortunate in Brentwood and have not had to deed a property in several years. He also mentioned that the board has made payment arrangements and have abated some interest on occasion as an incentive to residents to pay outstanding taxes. Dodge said they deeded two properties this year and voted not to accept two deeds because they were mobile homes. They incurred some costs through the eviction process but will offer the homeowner the first right to redemption. Snow said the process is not complicated and is a mathematical calculation as to what percentage of assessed value will the town allow to be outstanding before deciding it is in their best interest to deed the property.

Snow asked what other towns were doing to verify elderly exemptions to ensure that the residents qualify. Gulla said they grant exemptions for one year only and the information needs to be re-verified annually, although the RSA requires the verification at least every 5 years.

Bryan said in order to significantly reduce costs in towns he would suggest regionalizing services such as police and fire. Creating coops within the counties as they do in the south. This would help offset some of the schools costs. Snow said the school costs should not be at the local level but the state. Dodge mentioned the towns being assessed a tax by population from the county for dispatch services. Christiansen said the proposed fee was \$1.00 per resident.

Melvin Sr. asked how towns are handling the requirements under the MS4. Heitz said the MS4 is a mandate from the EPA for storm water management in the water supply to mitigate nitrogen throughout Region 1. Snow said there is a requirement for towns with waste water treatment plants to mitigate the nitrogen being released into the Great Bay to 3mg/liter as opposed to the current practice of 8mg. Heitz said the MS4 affects towns without waste water treatment plants as well as the EPA is also considering nonpoint pollutants in culverts, swales, etc. Prescott said there has been legislation proposed and a letter of understanding created to do a second study to offer more scientific data as to what the necessity is to reduce nitrogen emissions to 3mg. He said this is ongoing to redo the science because there is a lot of money at stake for all of the communities affected.

Byrne asked what the status was of accepting the federal Medicaid money for the state. Prescott said they are discussing a \$2.5 billion Medicaid expansion and the state would be responsible for 10% of that figure in next year's budget. He said in the past Medicaid dollars have always been included in the governor's budget. Prescott said he believes that the house should hold a public hearing to make a determination as to how they will afford that kind of money as any bill submitted to accept this money should have funding attached.

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Menter thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Clement  
Town Administrator, Brentwood